

# **NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER**

**A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND FACILITY ASSURANCE, OSEMA**

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## **RED TAG SAFETY AWARENESS TRAINING**

One of the key elements in the LaRC Safety Program is our Safety Clearance Procedure ( RED TAG ) defined in LHB 1710.10. Basically, the Red Tag is the mechanism used to assure personnel or equipment safety during installation, maintenance, or in any situation where an equipment configuration must be maintained for the protection of personnel or equipment.

Safety Operators are the only personnel trained and authorized to either install or remove the Red Tag. Strict adherence to the Red Tag procedures is mandatory since unauthorized removal of the tag, or operation of equipment bearing a Red Tag, can potentially lead to the death or serious injury of workers. In an emergency situation a Facility Safety Head may authorize qualified personnel to administer the Red Tag. These must be true emergencies, such as securing an accident site, and not acts of convenience. No exceptions to the rules are permitted and violations will result in disciplinary action. If your facility does not possess a qualified Safety Operator for Red Tag applications, you may obtain this service through the Operations Support Division which has individuals qualified to act as Safety Operators Center-wide. Information on this service is printed on the reverse side of the LaRC phone directory cover.

The Office of Safety and Facility Assurance has developed an awareness training program covering our Red Tag system. Contact Mr. Robert Blakeslee at extension 43376, or Mr. Doug Smith at extension 43375 to schedule this vital training. Your continued support of the LaRC Safety Program is appreciated.

## **RABIES CONCERN AT LaRC**

It is not unusual for LaRC employees to see various forms of wildlife at the Center. Deer, rabbits, squirrels, turtles, raccoons, opossums and domestic cats are frequently observed by employees. These animals should instinctively flee when an encounter is made with a human. When an animal does not flee, or shows signs of aggressive or unusual behavior, caution should be exercised.

Recently, a raccoon was encountered in the area of Building 1202 that exhibited rabies-type behavior. The raccoon was destroyed by security personnel and removed and taken to the LAFB Veterinarian. This is the third such incident at LaRC of suspect animals within the last three years. To add to this concern is the growing cat population at the Center. Evidence has been found at Buildings 1192 and 1299T of employees feeding cats. These animals are not vaccinated for rabies and pose a potential problem for employees. Measures will be taken in the near future to remove these cats from LaRC.

The following precautions should be used by LaRC employees;

- Do not at any time leave feed outside for animals.
- If an animal exhibits unusual behavior, contact the Safety Office at extension 47233 (4-SAFE):
- Do not ever attempt to pick up or assist any animal that seems to be injured or sick.